

1. Leave the Hurdlemakers' Arms and turn right onto Post Office Road. After 75 yards, at the T-junction with the B1010 (Burnham Road); cross over Burnham Road and take the signed footpath in the field opposite. For the first 70 yards, the path runs along the left-hand edge of a hedgerow and then heads across the middle of the field in the same direction, towards Little Grange Farm. The path skirts round the right-hand side of the farm and reaches a track. Turn left here, past the farmhouse and pond and continue ahead on the track. In just over 1/4 mile, turn right onto the crossing path, and after 100 yards turn right onto Goat House Lane, and after 60 yards, turn left into Chimney Pot Lane.

2. After nearly 1/2 mile, Chimney Pot Lane comes to a T-junction with Birchwood Road. If you turn right here, in 120 yards you will reach the Fox and Hounds pub in the village of Cock Clarks, which is a good place for a refreshment stop! Our route, however, turns left at the T-junction of Chimney Pot Lane and Birchwood Road. Continue along Birchwood Road for just over 3/4 mile, then turn left into Lodge Lane.

3. After 180 yards, (after the entrance to Scotts Farm on the left and shortly after the lane bends right) turn right onto the signed footpath, crossing two stiles and going through a gate, passing in front of a farmhouse. The path is then on the left-hand edge of a field. In the left-hand corner of this field, go across a footbridge and follow the path as it crosses a small area of scrubland.

After 100 yards, cross the footbridge and climb over the stile, then go ahead on the path across the middle of a field. In 175 yards, cross over a footbridge in a hedge gap and continue on the path for 100 yards across the middle of the next field, then go over a stile. This is soon followed by a footbridge and another stile. Follow the path uphill along another field's left-hand edge for 100 yards, climbing over the stile in the hedge gap in the left-hand corner of this field. Continue for 70 yards across the left-hand edge of the next field, going through a hedge gap in the left-hand corner, then continue ahead through a small wooded area to soon reach a track. Turn right here; the unmade track soon turns into a tarmacked lane. Go past Mill House on your left. On reaching the T-junction with another lane (Mill Hill), turn left.

With its handsome red brickwork, the "Fox & Hounds" dates from 1874. It is a family-friendly pub with a good sized garden and play area. Real ales and food are served.



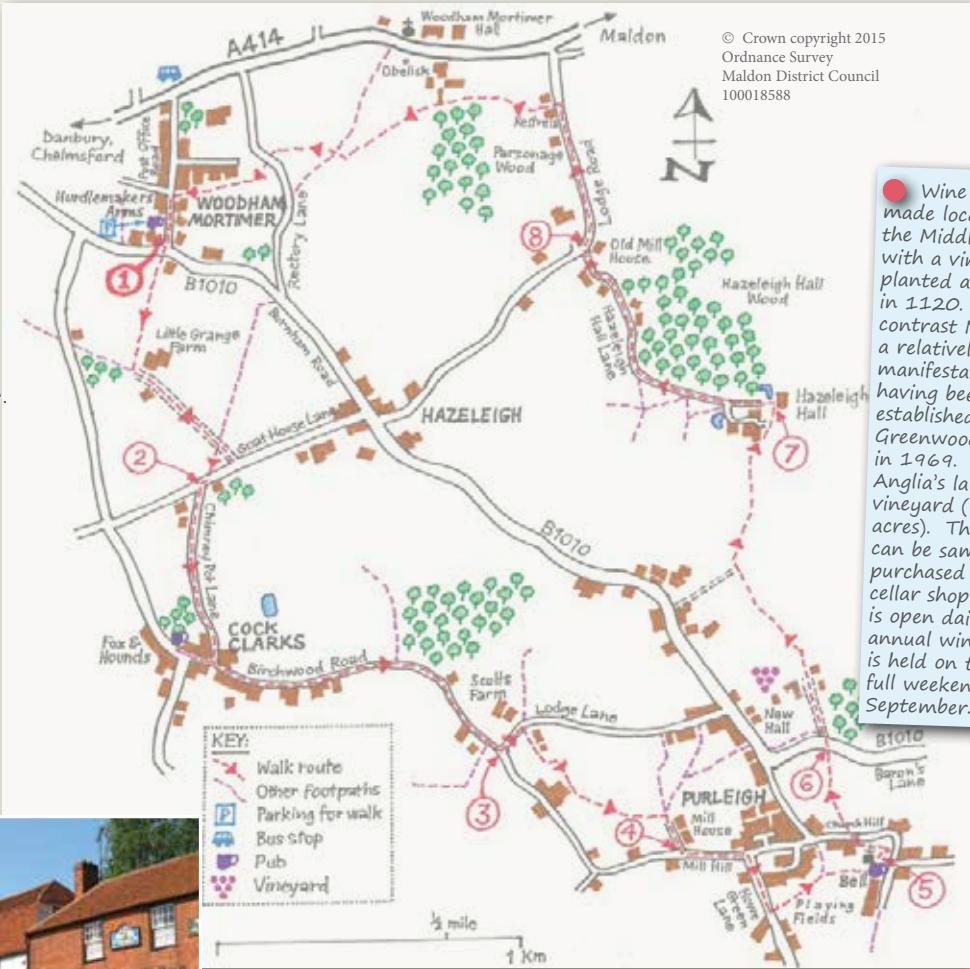
The Hurdlemakers' Arms is believed to date back to Elizabethan times, when it was a farmhouse known as Conduit Hall Farm. It did not become an inn until 1856. It is the only pub with this name in the country, and has a strong local reputation for its good food and excellent range of ales and ciders.

4. After 250 yards, turn right into Howe Green Lane. Continue ahead for almost 200 yards, then turn left onto Purleigh village playing fields. Walk across the left-hand side of the playing fields, with the church on the hill ahead of you. In the left-hand corner of the playing fields (to the left of the children's playground), go over the small footbridge and stile and head uphill on the left-hand edge of a field in the direction of the church. At the top of the hill, go over the stile and head left along the path (known as Rigby's Path). This brings you out into the churchyard. Walk up to the gravel path by the church's main entrance; turn right along this path coming to a metal gate. Go through the gate and then turn left onto the road, by the Bell pub.

5. After visiting the Bell, retrace your route round the front of the pub, turning right onto the path which goes into the churchyard (via the gate). Go through the churchyard; ignore the path to the left we used previously and exit through the gate ahead onto Church Hill. Turn left and head down the lane for 60 yards. Look out for a footpath sign in a wooded area on the right; go through the kissing gate, up some steps and go ahead on the path. This soon opens out into a field. Follow the direction of the arrow on the way-marker, and the path soon heads downhill on the left-hand edge of a large field. As you crest the hill, you are greeted with far-reaching views of Maldon to the south and eastwards over the Blackwater Estuary.



The Bell dates back to the 14th century. The traditional interior includes an open fire in a large inglenook and three heavily beamed dining areas. The pub serves good food and up to four well-kept ales. Allegedly, it was the home of George Washington's great-great grandfather, when he was rector of Purleigh church in the 1640s.



6. The path reaches a gap in the hedge alongside the B1010 (Baron's Lane); go through this and cross the road. Take the surfaced track ahead, ignoring the footpath which goes off to the left and head towards the New Hall vineyard buildings. The track goes to the right of most of the buildings and soon crosses a footbridge; keep ahead, following the right-hand edge of the field. 150 yards after the footbridge, you enter a larger field; follow the path around the right-hand edge. After 300 yards, look out for a large gap in the hedge and turn right through this into another field. Go ahead for 35 yards and cross a footbridge and through a kissing gate into a larger field. Follow the path on the field's right-hand edge for 150 yards, then go through another kissing gate and cross a footbridge. Turn right on the unmade track for 15 yards, then turn left for another 15 yards, taking the signed footpath off to the left across a footbridge

into another field. Walk along the right-hand edge of this large field for 250 yards and cross over the stile into the next field. Continue along the right-hand edge of the next two fields and horse paddocks, going over a succession of stiles. You will soon pass some farm buildings on your left; go over another stile (built into a fence) to enter the grounds of Hazleigh Hall.

7. After 60 yards (passing a wood-store and dovecote on your left), you reach the driveway to Hazleigh Hall, with the old manor house (parts of which date back to 1570) on your right. Ahead, you can see the remains of the medieval moat. Turn left and follow the driveway, which soon becomes a tarmacked lane (Hazleigh Hall Lane). Follow this lane for over 1/2 mile, ignoring all footpath signs off to the left. The lane skirts around the edge of Hazleigh Hall Wood. At the T-junction with Lodge Road (by Old Mill House), turn right and follow the road as it climbs steadily uphill.

8. After 1/3 mile, about 20 yards after passing a bungalow called Kestrels, turn left onto the signposted footpath. Continue ahead on the left-hand edge of a field, soon crossing a footbridge in a hedge gap.

The path bends right, then left along the left-hand edge of the next field for 250 yards. Go ahead on the way-marked path across a footbridge; continue ahead on a grassy path, with greenhouses to your right. After 200 yards, enter the next field and follow the path along the field's left-hand edge. To your right, across the field, you can see Woodham Mortimer church, Woodham Mortimer Hall and a commemorative obelisk.

Follow the way-marked path ahead through the next two fields for 1/4 mile, which follows the left-hand edge of both fields. Then turn right after going through the hedge gap to take the path on the right-hand edge of a long, narrow field. After 350 yards, the path reaches a lane (to the left of a five-barred gate). Cross the lane (Rectory Lane) and take the footpath opposite. Head across the field in the same direction as the overhead cables, then go across a footbridge into a small copse, soon emerging onto a path on the right-hand edge of a field. This soon becomes a fenced path as it crosses the grounds of a large house on the right. The path then narrows as it continues ahead between the gardens of houses either side, then opens out into a track as it nears the lane. Turn left on reaching the lane (Post Office Road) for 150 yards until you arrive at the Hurdlemakers' Arms, which is where we started the walk.

Wine was made locally in the Middle Ages, with a vineyard planted at Purleigh in 1120. By contrast New Hall is a relatively recent manifestation, having been established by the Greenwood family in 1969. It is East Anglia's largest vineyard (with 185 acres). The wines can be sampled and purchased from the cellar shop which is open daily. An annual wine festival is held on the first full weekend of September.

What is CAMRA?

The Campaign for Real Ale is an independent, voluntary organisation campaigning for real ale, community pubs and consumer rights.

Maldon & Dengie CAMRA is one of the smallest national branches; small we might be, but we pack a big punch! Our aim is to encourage our local breweries to supply good ale, for landlords to keep it and sell it that way and for pub-goers to make good use of their locals and drink fine ale.

Why not find out more?



maldonanddengiecamra.org.uk/

E-mail (Membership Enquiries):
mortontheale@btinternet.com

This walk was kindly developed by
Chris Harvey (Maldon and Dengie CAMRA)
for the
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50p

to cover printing costs

For further information please contact:

MALDON DISTRICT

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Wenlock Way, Maldon, Essex CM9 5AD

Tel: 01621 856503

Website: visitmaldondistrict.co.uk

Email: tic@maldon.gov.uk



MALDON DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Refreshments on (or close to) the walk

Fox and Hounds,
Cock Clarks CM3 6RF
Tel: 01621 829662

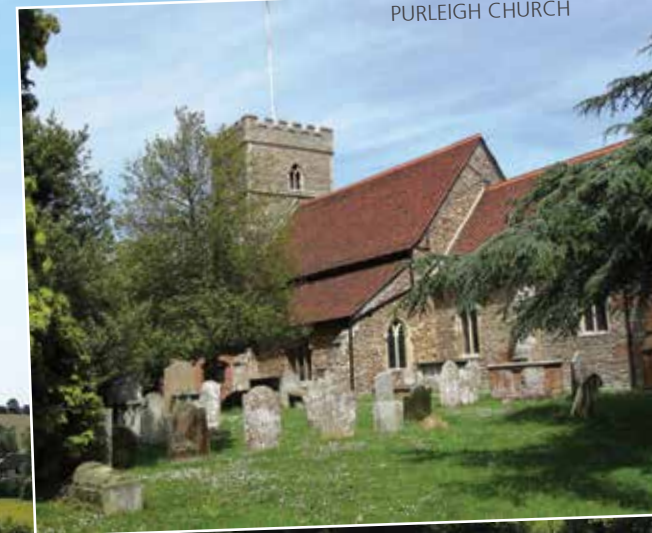
Hurdlemakers Arms,
Woodham Mortimer CM9 6ST
Tel: 01245 225169

The Bell,
Purleigh CM3 6QJ
Tel: 01621 828348

WALKING IN THE MALDON DISTRICT CIRCULAR COUNTRYSIDE WALK *Woodham Mortimer and Purleigh Pub Walk*



PURLEIGH CHURCH



Distance:
6.9 miles (11.1 km) circular walk

Time taken:
3¼ hours (without pub stops!)

Location for start of walk:
Woodham Mortimer - 3½ miles
west of Maldon; A414 west from
Maldon, then right into Post
Office Road, Woodham Mortimer

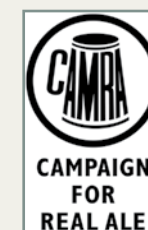
OS Explorer Map: 183
(Chelmsford & The Rodings)

OS Grid Reference: TL 813 044

Parking: Hurdlemakers Arms car
park (CM9 6ST) – but please ask
pub's permission first

Public Transport: 31, 31X buses
from Maldon (regular service
weekdays/Saturdays, less
frequent on Sundays) to bus stop
at the junction of A414 and Post
Office Road, then 350 metres'
walk to the pub

This is an extremely pleasant walk which takes you through attractive Essex farmland and down quiet country lanes. There are many beautiful country houses to look at along the way, and some lovely scenery to admire too. One of the key features of this walk is that it provides the opportunity to visit two historic country pubs which are locally renowned for serving fine ales and excellent food: the Hurdlemakers' Arms in Woodham Mortimer and the Bell in Purleigh. There's also another characterful village pub on the route, namely the Fox & Hounds in Cock Clarks. Pub opening times vary - please check beforehand.



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